

Poolesville Day Chairpersons Receive Community Service Award

By Rande Davis

At the annual Poolesville Area Chamber of Commerce dinner on March 11 at the Comus Inn, Brice Halbrook and Bridget Burke, co-chairs of the Poolesville Day Committee, were honored with the chamber's Community Service Awards. This fall's annual festival will be the fourth Poolesville Day that the two have organized and directed. Halbrook is a principal in Townsend & Halbrook Mortgage Corporation, and Burke works with Kelcom Media Services.

Each year, the PACC chooses businesspeople who best exemplify the concept of giving back to the community. Such individuals demonstrate consistent extraordinary effort in service to causes, organizations, or programs that aid and uplift the community as a whole. The chamber dedicates itself not only to promoting the interest of the business sector but also to modeling the many ways the needs of the community can be assisted by the business sector. The chamber's annual community service includes donations to area civic groups like WUMCO-Help, PHS Post Prom Party, Upper Montgomery County Volunteer Fire Department, scholarships, First Friday in December, publication of the town tourist map, co-sponsor of a business fair, and, in partnering with the Monocacy Lions Club, organizes the annual 5K race traditionally held on Poolesville Day.

Halbrooke and Burke join the many past winners such as Kathy Mihm (2007), Roy and Betty Jean Selby (2008), and Ray Hoewing (2009).

President Scott Hollander (Merrill Lynch) hosted the event and gave an economic report provided by the national Chamber of Commerce on economic conditions. The dinner was also an occasion to vote for the new officers of the club. Hilary Schwab Shapiro of Schwab Photography was elected president, and Scott Hollander was elected as vice president. After six years of service as treasurer, Dennis Conni (M&T Bank) stepped down, and Tim Pike (Pike & Valega, DDS) was elected treasurer. Jeff Stempler (REMN Real Estate Mortgage Network, Inc.) will be membership chairman.